

**ST. MATTHEW'S  
REFORMED CHURCH**  
4575 Maiden HWY.  
P. O. Box 739  
Maiden, NC 28650  
*"A Faithful and Welcoming Congregation"*

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## The Grapevine

October 2021

### Consistory Corner

As St. Matthew's continued to grow and become an independent congregation many changes took place. The new educational wing had brought the church from a one-room facility to an expanded Sunday School institution. There were numerous positive indications of growth in the late 1960's and into the 1970's. Individual members as well as the congregation as a whole provided funds or specific items to enhance the worship space and to allow a variety of activities to be accomplished. Other momentous occasions marked this era in the Church life including a "son" of St. Matthew's call to the ministry with his ordination in 1968. These steps of progress are an integral part in bringing the Church to its current status.

During 1968 was the sharing in the ordination service of one of its members. On Sunday, June 16, 1968, the congregation participated in the ordination service of William (Bill) John Campbell, the only known member to be ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Christ. The ministers taking part in the service were the Reverends Edwin M. Alcorn, James D. Rumley, Martin L. Parker, Jr., and Frank W. Snider. During the service, the congregation gave him a pastor's robe.

William is the son of Maude Campbell and the late W. Theodore Campbell. He graduated from Lincolnton High School in Lincolnton, NC, Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina, and Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. His first pastorate was Hedrick's Grove United Church of Christ, Lexington, North Carolina, 1968-1981. He also served as pastor of First Reformed United Church of Christ in High Point, North Carolina, 1981-1989, and at Mount Zion, China Grove, NC, 1989-2011. He died August 29, 2020.

During the 1970's, the congregation of St. Matthew's accomplished several major projects. Renovation of the sanctuary was concluded in 1973. This major project consisted of new windows, light fixtures, a choir loft, carpet, padded pews, and air conditioning. The Reverend Linn Finger, Pastor, conducted a Service of Thanksgiving and Rededication on May 13, 1973.

A large portion of the parking lot was paved in 1975. Three years later this portion was insufficient and the members agreed to pave the remaining parking area and the cemetery road. This was completed in August 1978.

In 1970, a baptismal font was contributed to the church. A vigil light or an eternal flame was given during 1971.

On September 1, 1974, the congregation dedicated a church sign located at the

front of the church property. Two huge millstones with a combined weight of more than 7,000 pounds embrace the sign. These stones were found at the site of an old mill in Lockhardt's Creek about three miles from the church. It is believed that the mill was built sometime between 1800 and the outbreak of the Civil War. The mill was last operated by Mr. Michael Finger at whose home St. Matthew's was organized in 1836.

Carillon chimes were donated and installed in the belfry of the church in December 1975. These were dedicated on the third Sunday of May 1977. The chimes were given as a memorial gift by the Albert Shrum family and the Paul Martin family.

In August 1976, the church purchased a new Conn organ with a matched set of pipes and two remote sound cabinets. On October 10, 1976, the Reverend Lynwood Hubbard conducted the dedication service for the organ.

A much-needed church bus was purchased in April 1977. The bus was used by various organizations within the church for their activities.

In 1978, an extensive renovation of the interior of the Educational Department began. Volunteer labor, using funds from memorial gifts and the Sunday School, painted, wallpapered, refinished

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**St. Matthew's Reformed  
Church Consistory Minutes  
September 19, 2021**

**We Assemble in God's Name**

**Attendance:** Libby Herman, Frank Snider, Matthew Hawn, Gina Chandler, Jan Rice, Ruth Haynes, Susan Stewart, Burl Shrum, Bruce Wray, Ronnie Bumgarner, Chris Barger, Lora Rice, and Faye Painter (Treasurer)

**Guest-** Chris Carpenter, Chair of sanctuary committee

Candace Carpenter, Chair of waterline

President Libby Herman called the meeting to order with prayer and devotion on, *People Who Try to Down Size You to Their Size*.

**Motion** was made by Ruth Haynes to add adjustments and to approve the September agenda.

Second by Ronnie Bumgarner  
Motion carried

Candace Carpenter gave us an update on the water line.

**3 Ferguson Waterworks Invoices  
(Received via email Friday September 17<sup>th</sup>)**

under special project information to say, shortfalls/funds still needed: phase 2 to be determined.

Second by Matthew Hawn  
Motion carried

Chris Carpenter has discovered (13) boards under the sanctuary that have either names or messages. It was discussed that we take pictures of the boards to maybe display but to put the boards back in the original spot to keep them exactly as found. The sanctuary committee would like to put a 2021 time capsule under the choir loft. They are asking the congregation to do one per family, either a picture with a note on the back or a small note. Bud Michael's book will also be placed in the capsule.

**Motion** was made by Chris Barger that we proceed with this time capsule and to replace the 13 boards to the original spot.

Second by Bruce Wray  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Frank Snider to accept the August minutes with the correction of misspelling and adding Burl Shrum's name to the called Consistory meeting minutes.

Second by Gina Chandler  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Jan Rice to have the treasurer supply the Consistory with a funds accounting posting report and bank statements.

Second by Frank Snider  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Ronnie Bumgarner to accept the financial report.

Second by Frank Snider  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Gina Chandler to have Libby Herman draw up a new contract with Kyle Crafton on the lawn service. Corrections church lawn and parsonage to be mowed 7 to 10 days (weather permitting), and the spring across the road and ball field every 2 weeks.

Second by Chris Barger  
Motion carried

Chris Carpenter gave us an update on the sanctuary.

**Motion** was made by Gina Chandler to change the information in the bulletin

**New Business:**

The parsonage was discussed concerning updates before the Pastor moves in. It was left very clean, just some updates on the bathrooms, flooring, cabinets, etc... New appliances will be ordered: refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, and microwave. Pastor Sowers will be bringing his washer and dryer.

**Motion** was made by Ronnie Bumgarner to ask the same nominating committee as last year with the exception of removing Jan Rice. Members will be Katie Barnes, Jean Funderburk, Chris Carpenter, Greg Barkley and Jerry Minter.

Second by Gina Chandler  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Bruce Wray to allow the young adult group to return to JRVC October 22 thru 24.

Second by Chris Barger  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Bruce Wray to take the hymnals out to the arbor for those who wish to sing are able and those who do not feel safe can have the option.

Second by Lora Rice  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Bruce Wray to approve John's River Camp financial report

Second by Gina Chandler  
Motion carried

**Motion** was made by Bruce Wray to adjourn

Second by Jan Rice  
Motion carried

Next meeting: October 10, 2021  
@ 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's prayer,

Respectfully submitted,  
Lora W. Rice Secretary



**HISTORY ... Continued from page 1**

furniture, put down carpet, and made new draperies. During the remodeling, the Consistory accepted the plans to convert the Senior High Sunday School room into a History-Conference room in memory of Charles Arnold McRee who had suggested the conversion. On August 3, 1980, the History-Conference room was dedicated.

Some of the historical items include:

1. Pictures of the Michael Finger home.
2. The mantel, from the Michael Finger home, around which the organization of St. Matthew's was discussed.
3. Old Sunday School books and records dating back to 1835.
4. Hymn books that were used in the first church.
5. Communion Set and Baptismal Bowl which were used in the first church.
6. Picture of the laying of the cornerstone of the church.
7. Personal Bible of Arnold McRee.

An old pump organ purchased by the congregation in 1902, was restored during late 1979. The organ which was last played in 1943, before its restoration, is a handsome piece of furniture for our sanctuary. Since the organ has been restored, it has been played for special occasions. During 1979, the congregation also purchased a Kohler and Campbell Studio Juliette piano for use in the Fellowship Hall.

A memorial garden in the grove of trees in front of the church was completed in August 1979, and was dedicated on September 9, 1979. Collection plates, a brass communion set, and religious research material were donated during 1979.

We might consider these small increments of change; however, bit-by-bit change has come and contributed to the history and value of the Church to its members. Our history proves that advancements have been made with the confidence, consideration, and support of the entire congregation. This sharing and working together to "make things happen" will serve St. Matthew's well into the future. (To be cont'd next month.)



### ATTENTION ... QUILT DRAWING

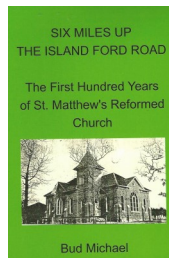
The Young at Hearts invites you to come to the fellowship hall at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup> for dessert, coffee, and the quilt drawing.

Appreciation is expressed to all who purchased tickets for this fundraiser for the Sanctuary Fund.

### Congratulations ...

We express congratulations to Jason and Chelsea Goodson on the birth of a son, Logan Hunter Goodson born on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021. He was 21½" long and weighed 8 lbs. 6 oz.

Our best wishes to the Goodson family.



The Women's Fellowship is sponsoring the book "Six Miles Up the Island Ford Road." The book cost is \$10.00/each.

Please see Hilda Shrum to make a purchase. Make checks payable to

St. Matthew's Women's Fellowship.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the Sanctuary Fund.

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### ALTAR FLOWERS ...

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, & 28<sup>th</sup> are available for Flower Sponsors. Please call Lealta Smith (828) 428-8327 or email: smithlea@charter.net.

\_\_Thank you\_\_

### Sunday School Record

Date	Attd. 2021	Offg. 2021	Attd. 2020	Offg. 2020
9/05	HC		No Sunday School Mar-Dec. 2020 due to COVID-19	
9/12	JRVC			
9/19	39			
9/26	29			

Hilda Shrum, Jacquelyn Barger, Sonya Leonard, Karlee Cook, Wells Carpenter, Lola Mae Hawn, Keever Hawn, Annabel Barger, Aubree McCrary, Elsie Painter, Cindy Minter, Jerry Minter, Chris Carpenter, Terrell Bumgarner, Joan Campbell, Roger Beard, Ruth Haynes, Shirley McRee, Dale Goodson, Susan Goodson, Candace Carpenter, Faye Painter, Lealta Smith, Burl Shrum, Chris Barger, Bruce Wray and Walter Rice.



*Christian Sympathy* is extended to the following families of ...

... Terrell Lee Pope at his death on October 4, 2021.

... Shirley Jean Moose Martin at her death on October 10, 2021.

Our heartfelt sympathy to these families and to others that we may not know about.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
	<b>1 ALL SAINTS DAY</b> 	<b>2</b>  ♦ Kaye Crouse
<b>7 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b> <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS</b>  9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship Guest Speaker: Greg Richard  ♦ Keever Hawn	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>14 TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST</b>  9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship Guest Speaker: Weston Henderson  6:00 P.M. Consistory Meeting  ♥ M/M Jim Wilson ♦ Phyllis Wilson	<b>15</b>  ♦ Matt Painter	<b>16</b>
<b>21 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY</b>  9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship Guest Speaker: Greg Richard 11:00 A.M. Annual Congregational Meeting following the worship service  ♦ Jan Leonhardt	<b>22</b>  ♥ M/M Bruce Wray	<b>23</b>
<b>28 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  9:00 A.M. Sunday School 10:00 A.M. Morning Worship Guest Speaker: Weston Henderson	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  ♦ Max David Bumgarner,

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3	4	5  ♦ Tony Campbell	6
10  ♦ Joel Campbell	11 <b>VETERAN'S DAY</b>	12	13  10:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to come to the Fellowship Hall for Dessert, coffee, and the <b>QUILT DRAWING!</b> Sponsored by: The Young at Hearts
17	18	19	20
24	25 <b>Thanksgiving DAY</b>  ♦ Mason Painter	26  ♦ Rick Hartzoge Ruby Campbell	27
 <p>♥ WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES</p> <p>♦ BIRTHDAYS</p>		<b>October 2021</b> S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
		<b>December 2021</b> S M T W T F S  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	

## Notable St. Matthew's Minister—Rev. John Koons

— Bud Michael

As we approach the one-year anniversary of St. Matthew's Reformed Church having no full-time minister, we pray that Rev. William Sowers will be one of those great, memorable ministers who will lead the Church for years to come.

We've been blessed over the past year that our Consistory under the leadership of Libby Herman has seen to the continuation of regular Sunday services despite the added concerns over the historic pandemic which has now taken more U.S. lives than the horrendous 1918 Spanish influenza epidemic.

Interestingly, St. Matthew's has seen much longer stretches of time with supply ministers serving the congregations. Would you believe that for 17 years from 1868 to 1885, we relied on Catawba College President, Jacob Clapp, D.D. and Professor John Foil, PhD. as supply ministers. And the congregation held strong. (Both these pastors returned to regularly supply our Church in the years between 1893-1897 and again in 1909!)

That brings to mind our longest serving minister. Rev. John Koons served the Church for twenty-five continuous years from 1919-1944. Rev. Koons also served Memorial Church and the Reformed congregation at Salem for the same twenty-five years. His routine was to preach at two of the three churches each Sunday. In addition to his ministerial service he taught at Maiden High School and in the summertime, taught bible school in the arbor. He resumed his pastorate in 1948, serving St. Matthew's until his untimely death in 1953 at the age of 64. A few members of our Church will recall Rev. Koons, both in the pulpit and in the classroom. It is recalled that Rev. Koons was a large man with a commanding presence and a booming voice. As a teacher he apparently had little tolerance for misbehaving boys in the classroom. He could put the fear of the Lord in a kid in more ways than one. Legend has it, he once dangled a misbehaving male student upside down from a third-floor classroom window. One experience like that likely had a profoundly calming effect on the kid, the class and the school!

Rev. Koons was a spiffy dresser and although he sometimes walked through the woods to arrive at Church on a Sunday he was always fresh looking and with shiny shoes. Asked how he was able to keep his shoes so clean, even on a rainy Sunday, he responded, "I carry them in a sack. I take off my walking shoes and put on my Church shoes when I get here." He carried a sizeable pocket watch as well, which he often flourished to signal the congregation that he was nearing the completion of his sermon.

Dear Church Family, 10-3-21  
Words are not sufficient to express our gratitude for all of your acts of kindness at our time of loss. We greatly appreciate the prayers, flowers, cards, and food. We are truly grateful for the support and love that has been poured out to us. Daddy served and loved our church and thus benefited from the teaching and fellowship it provided him for practically his whole life.

Please continue to keep our family in your prayers.

Love,  
The Gordon Family

Rev. Koons officiated the 1921 dedication ceremony of the new (1908) brick church. St. Matthew's, under Rev. Koons' direction, hosted the 1927 97<sup>th</sup> annual session of the North Carolina Classis. In 1937, Rev. Koons officiated the Centennial Celebration of St. Matthew's which coincided with the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.



Rev. John A. Koons  
(Photo made about 1927)



Rev. John A. Koons  
1919-1944, 1948-1953

**MISSION** . . . To worship God, to provide training and support for discipleship growth, and to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through word and deed.

**VISION** . . . To strengthen our ministry to youth, to provide fellowship opportunities, to grow in membership, to deepen in faith, and to expand the church's outreach to the community.

**VALUES** . . . Strive to love and serve God, to love one another and keep relationships healthy, and to welcome and befriend new-comers.